

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SSM-03

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O R 301417Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9336

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 30 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT ARRIVAL OF DR.

KHULI TO DISCUSS AL PEACE PLAN

1. MEDIA REPORTED ARRIVAL PREVIOUS DAY OF AL MEDIATOR
DR. KHULI, ACCOMPANIED BY ASF COMMANDER GHUNAYM. KHULI
STATED HE IN DAMASCUS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND PROPOSALS
FOR TERMINATING CLASHES IN LEBANON WHERE HE CLAIMED SITUA-
TION IMPROVING DUE TO END OF RANDOM SHELLING, PROXIMITY
OF SARKIS' ASSUMPTION OF POWER AND HOPES FOR ARAB SUMMIT.
HE ESTIMATED LEBANON HAS SUFFERED 40,000 CASUALTIES IN
YEAR-AND-A-HALF OF FIGHTING. HE MET WITH KHADDAM AUG 29
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AT NOON, AND ACCORDING TO TISHRIIN--WHICH CAPTIONED ITS

REPORT, "KHULI DECLARES ALL LEBANESE PARTIES HAVE CON-
SENTED TO AL PEACE PROPOSAL"--KHULI POSTPONED HIS TRIP
TO CAIRO TO MEET AGAIN WITH KHADDAM LAST EVENING.

2. KHADDAM, AF COMMANDER NAJI JAMIL AND COS HIKMAT SHIHABI
YESTERDAY MORNING RECEIVED IMAM MUSA SADR TO REVIEW EFFORTS
TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS. TALKS REPORTEDLY FOCUSED ON
PLANS TO RETURN EVACUEES OF NABAA TO THEIR HOMES. FIRST
CONVOY OF EVACUEES SCHEDULED TO DEPART BAALBEK FOR NABAA
TODAY FOLLOWING POSTPONEMENT FROM AUG. 28.

3. PRESS REPORTED RELATIVE CALMNESS IN BEIRUT PREVIOUS
DAY, WITH EXCEPTION OF EXPLOSIONS IN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
AND SOME KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS NEAR MUSEUM. DEATH TOLL
FOR AUG. 28 LISTED IN PRESS AT 62. MEDIA REPORTED
CONSULTATIONS YESTERDAY, SPOTLIGHTING BILATERAL PLO-
PHALANGE CONTACTS TO CONFIRM THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF AL PEACE
PLAN AND TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO MAKE PLAN MORE PERMANENT
AND EFFECTIVE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPOTS, THEY HAVE AGREED
ON BASIC ISSUE OF DECLARING COMPLETE HALT TO FIGHTING IN
LEBANON. "DECLARATION OF THIS AGREEMENT WILL FOLLOW
MEETING IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PARTIES WILL
PARTICIPATE. DATE OF THIS MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN
FIXED."

4. MEDIA CONTINUED TO PREPARE PUBLIC FOR ARRIVAL OF SARKIS
MORNING OF AUG. 31 AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT ASAD.

5. PRESS REPORTED SEC GEN RIAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM PLO
REQUESTING PROMPT CONVENING OF ARAB SUMMIT. RIAD REPORTEDLY
CALLED FONMINS MEETING SEPT. 1 TO FIX DATE AND PLACE
OF SUMMIT. RIAD CLAIMED LEBANESE SITUATION HAD DETERIORATED
TO INTOLERABLE LEVEL. ACCORDING TO PRESS, HE EXPRESSED
NO PREFERENCE CONCERNING LIMITED OR EXPANDED ATTENDANCE
AT SUMMIT. (HE ESTIMATED 30,000 HAD BEEN KILLED OVER
DURATION OF CIVIL WAR.)

6. IN SPEECH DELIVERED AT NAVY DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD IN
LATAKIA, DEFMIN TLAS CRITICIZED ROLE PLAYED BY EGYPT
AND IRAQ IN LEBANON AND SLASHED AT EGYPT FOR SIGNING
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SINAI ACCORD.

7. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST OPINED SARKIS VISIT WOULD BE "OF
EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO SYRIA." WRITER PROFESSED TO BE
ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE SIGNS OF RELATIVE CALMNESS IN
BEIRUT, INTENSIFIED POLITICAL CONTACTS AND HOPE THAT ALL
PARTIES WOULD AGREE TO AL PEACE PLAN. HE CRITICIZED
EFFORTS BY OUTSIDE FORCES TO UNDERMINE LEBANESE SETTLEMENT,

PARTICULARLY EGYPT, "WHICH IS ACTING JOINTLY WITH ENEMIES
OF ARAB NATION TO SABOTAGE EVERYTHING IN INTEREST OF
ARAB STRUGGLE."

8. COMMENT: SYRIAN MEDIA HAS SWITCHED GEARS AND IS STRIVING
TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF
LEBANESE CRISIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH UPCOMING SARKIS
VISIT. RELATIVE CALMNESS PREVAILING IN BEIRUT, RETURN
OF NABAA EVACUEES AND PROGRESS IN TALKS BETWEEN PLO AND
PHALANGE CITED AS ENCOURAGING SIGNS THAT REVERSAL OF
STEADY DETERIORATION IN LEBANESE SITUATION MAY BE NEAR.
MURPHY

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